

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 183134  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NE/CD:SATAUBENBLATT:CK  
APPROVED BY NEA:NVELIOTES  
AA/NE:ADWHITE(DRAFT)  
NE/ME:NSWEET(DRAFT)  
NEA/ARN:ETUNIS(DRAFT)  
NEA/ARN:MDRAPER (DRAFT)  
NEA/IAI:MANDERSON(DRAFT)  
S/S-O: AWOTTO

-----093356 042128Z /62

P R 041808Z AUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183134

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, JO, US, IS

SUBJECT: MAQARIN DAM WATER RIGHTS DISCUSSIONS

1. ON JULY 28, 1977, EITAN RAFF, ISRAELI EMBASSY  
ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, CALLED ON TAUBENBLATT, AID/NE/CD,  
TO REPORT ON HIS RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN JERUSALEM  
WITH MOSHE ALON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, MFA, AND  
MENACHEM KANTOR, ISRAELI WATER COMMISSIONER, WITH  
RESPECT TO MAQARIN DAM PROJECT. RAFF ALSO REPORTED  
ON HIS PARTICIPATION WITH YACOB VARDI, VICE  
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PRESIDENT, TAHEL, IN THE DISCUSSIONS IN CHICAGO WITH  
HARZA IN MID-JUNE.

2. RAFF STATED THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH HARZA WENT WELL  
AND THAT HE AND VARDI WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL  
DETAILS AND CLARIFICATIONS WITH RESPECT TO HARZA'S  
FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE MAQARIN PROJECT, INCLUDING

THE DIVERSION WEIR AND THE ORIGIN OF 17 MCM FIGURE. IN DISCUSSIONS ON DIVERSION WEIR, ACCORDING TO RAFF, HARZA INDICATED THAT JORDANIANS MAY USE A KOREAN CONSTRUCTION FIRM FOR WORK RELATED TO THE WEIR. WITH RESPECT TO THE 17 MCM FIGURE IN THE FEASIBILITY REPORT, HARZA CLAIMED THAT THIS WAS FIGURE THAT THEY SUGGESTED BASED ON PREVIOUS STUDIES AND THAT GOJ

AGREED TO THAT FIGURE.

3. RAFF REPORTED THAT DURING HIS JERUSALEM VISIT, HE WAS INFORMED THAT THE TAHEL STAFF WERE PREPARING DATA REQUESTED BY GOJ WITH RESPECT TO YARMOUK TRIANGLE WATER AVAILABILITY AND AGRICULTURAL USAGE. IN ADDITION, TAHEL WAS PREPARING INFORMATION FOR GOJ ON EXPERIENCE IN USE OF NEW IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY BY WEST BANK FARMERS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ABILITY OF EAST GHOR FARMERS TO ABSORB NEW TECHNOLOGY, FOR EXAMPLE, SPRINKLER AND DRIP IRRIGATION. HE SAID THAT THESE DATA SHOULD BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY.

4. IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION, TAUBENBLATT ASKED RAFF WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY REACTIONS BY THE NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO THE MAQARIN PROJECT AND THE WATER RIGHTS QUESTIONS. RAFF REPORTED THAT HE

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HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED BY ALON TO STATE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO CHANGES IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE WITH RESPECT TO THE MAQARIN DAM PROJECT. RAFF ASKED ABOUT THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOJ ON THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE ISRAELIS IN THE MAY 25-27 MEETINGS IN ISRAEL. TAUBENBLATT INFORMED RAFF THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE U.S. TECHNICAL TEAM IN JERUSALEM AND AMMAN WENT VERY WELL, THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS WAS MADE, AND THAT THE AREAS OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PARTIES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN NARROWED VERY CONSIDERABLY. TAUBENBLATT INDICATED THAT WE PLAN TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THE GOI SHORTLY, SETTING FORTH IN WRITING THE U.S. UNDERSTANDING OF THE VIEWS OF JORDAN AND ISRAEL ON THE MAQARIN WATER RIGHTS QUESTIONS AND RELATED AREAS OF AGREEMENT. RAFF SAID THAT HE WAS ASKED BY ALON TO COORDINATE AT THIS END ON THE MAQARIN PROJECT AND ASKED TO BE KEPT INFORMED. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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